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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Falsification of Ballots in the Bulgarian
Election of 15 May 1949

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ACQUIRED

DATE OF IN

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. During the elections held on 15 May 1949 to choose Regional and Municipal Councils, there was strong resistance from the opponents of the present regime in spite of the terrorist methods employed by the government.
2. Since they could not cast a vote for their own candidates, and since they could not abstain from the elections without suffering severe penalties, opposition was expressed by casting blank ballots. Most of these contained derisive phrases covering Stalin and Dimitrov and the other leaders of the Communist Party of Russia and Bulgaria.
3. In Kamilski Dol a total of 414 votes were cast. When the ballot boxes were opened, 213 blank ballots were found and only 201 votes for the Fatherland Front. As a result of the resistance in Kamilski Dol during the elections, 12 persons were ordered arrested.
4. In Ivailograd the elections were falsified by removing the blank ballots from the ballot boxes and substituting an equal number of ballots marked for the Fatherland Front.

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